

Mr. Speaker, I, on behalf of the United States Congress, salute Mr. Keppel for reflecting a great credit upon himself, and our nation. I offer my sincere thanks for all that he has done for Northwest Florida and this great nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 20, I was not present for business on the floor of the House due to personal business and was thereby absent for votes on rollcall Nos. 118 through 120. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 118, "yea" on rollcall No. 119, and "yea" on rollcall No. 120.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHN AMOS, II

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I pay tribute to an outstanding American, a true patriot, and a hero to his country, Private First Class John Amos II. Pfc. Amos was killed in action on Sunday, April 4, 2004, while serving in Kirkuk, Iraq for the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division of the United States Army. He bravely sacrificed his life to ensure the safety of his fellow soldiers, the Iraqi people, and the very idea of freedom throughout the world. He was remembered at funeral services held on the morning of Tuesday, April 13, 2004, in his hometown of Valparaiso, Indiana.

John Amos was raised in Griffith, Indiana and later moved to Valparaiso, Indiana where he graduated from Valparaiso High School in 2002. After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, John's dedication to his country led him to enlist in the United States Army right after his graduation from Valparaiso High School. Although the physical and mental demands were extremely difficult, John remained undeterred in his desire to serve in the military. The son of an Air Force Veteran, John understood the hardships of military life and accepted them with the courage and fortitude befitting a soldier dedicated to the defense of his country.

Pfc. Amos deployed for Iraq as part of the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. John was on patrol near Kirkuk, Iraq when an explosion hit his military vehicle and prematurely took his life. John wanted nothing more than to dedicate his life to the military, and he honored his unit on April 4, 2004, by sacrificing himself to preserve the values he treasured.

Although it was his ambition to serve his nation as a soldier, nothing was more important to Pfc. Amos than his family. He is survived by his mother, Susan Amos, his father, John Amos, a sister, Rebecca Amos, two half brothers, Hunter and Tyler Amos, grandfather,

Hank Amos, and grandparents Doug and Lucy Whitehead, as well as a nation and a community who will never forget the sacrifice that he made to protect our freedom. His father, John Amos, was an Air Force Veteran who John looked to for guidance and advice while contemplating service in the military. John remained close to his family until his death, and he will never be forgotten by those he left behind.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Private First Class John Amos II. Pfc. Amos is the 21st resident of Indiana to sacrifice his life in Iraq, and his passing comes as a difficult setback to a community already shaken by the realities of war. Pfc. Amos will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country; thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

HONORING SALEM SHAPIRO'S 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 23, Salem Shapiro, a retired city planner now living in Redding, Connecticut, will celebrate his 95th birthday. Normally on an occasion like this, I would hail his service in the Pacific Theater during WWI and salute the idealism with which he battled suburban sprawl and exclusionary zoning. But such a standard tribute to his 60-year career misses the larger message of his life: his joyful refusal to bow to the clichés of old age.

Like many senior citizens today, Salem Shapiro took up writing in his late eighties. But instead of dwelling on autobiography and family genealogy, he composed satirical essays that channeled the spirit of Jonathan Swift. Claiming to be a master of "Non-Euclidean, Non-Linear Logic," he puckishly suggested that the elderly were fast becoming an endangered species because of their "unusually low birth rate when compared with other sectors of the population." His remedy was to champion the mythical organization called "Save the Elderly from Themselves." Then there was his mocking proposal to deal with the high cost of campaigning by suggesting that the presidency be let out for auction, thereby enriching the Federal Treasury rather than individual TV stations.

But nothing better captures Salem Shapiro's indomitable spirit as well as a poem he wrote a few years ago entitled "An Attitude." The last two stanzas deftly summarize his philosophy of aging:

I too have lived a lifetime
Enjoying myself and serving society
But I will not allow me
To be cast off like the leaf
In the Fall of my life.

I shall continue my activity
In interacting with friends
And people and groups such as this
That constitutes my tree
And resist turning dry and crumble.

Longevity encompasses far more than luck and genes. It is, in many ways, the ultimate art form.

Mr. Speaker, please join me as I hail Salem Shapiro on his 95th birthday.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRAD YOUNG

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to Brad Young and thank him for his commitment to public service as a four-term member of the Colorado House of Representatives. Brad will always be remembered for the leadership and guidance he has provided, and as he celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a great legacy in the Colorado General Assembly and for the people of Colorado.

Raised in Lamar, Colorado, Brad received his bachelor's and master's degree in agricultural engineering from Colorado State University. This academic background served Brad well in representing Baca, Bent, Huerfano, Las Animas, Otero, and Prowers counties in the 64th District, where agriculture and water issues are so vital. His work in the General Assembly also has included sponsoring the Habitat Partnership program, the Rural Doctor Tax Credit, Workers Comp Education by Community Colleges, and Aquaculture regulation by the Department of Agriculture. Brad's leadership and dedication in the State House earned him the important chairmanships of the Appropriations and Joint Budget Committees, and he is a former member of the Education and Transportation Committees.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute before this body of Congress and this nation to State Representative Brad Young for his selfless efforts of public service during his tenure in the Colorado House of Representatives. The level of integrity and honesty Brad has displayed while serving his district and the people of Colorado has earned the respect and admiration of his peers. I would like to extend my congratulations to Brad on his retirement and wish him, his wife Rebecca, and his two daughters Cassandra and Laura all the best in their future endeavors.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JULIA MARIE ERICKSON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, John and Michelle Erickson are celebrating the arrival of their daughter, Julia Marie Erickson; and

Whereas, Julia Marie Erickson was born on the twenty-fifth Day of March, 2004 and weighed seven pounds and one ounce; and

Whereas, Mr. And, Mrs. Erickson are proud to welcome their new daughter into their home; and

Whereas, Julia Marie Erickson will be a blessed addition to her family, bringing Cove, joy and happiness for many years to come;

Therefore, I join with Members of Congress and Congressional Staff in celebrating with